

U.S. Climate Alliance Statement on Leadership
Global Climate Action Summit – 13 September 2018

Across every sector, U.S. Climate Alliance states continue to lead the nation in reducing GHG emissions and have done so while growing our economies faster than the rest of the nation and creating 1.3 million clean energy jobs. We have worked across party lines to share our experiences and find common solutions and as a result, are already more than halfway to the Paris Agreement target.

However, in the last year, the federal rollback of our nation's climate framework has had real consequences and is projected to slow the reduction of carbon pollution across the country¹ – putting the health of American families at risk and raising costs through the intentional erosion of efficiency and pollution control measures already being implemented. In that same year, extreme weather and climate-related events have ravaged our communities and cost the United States over \$300 billion.

Comment [A1]: Julie to double check

As leaders, we cannot ignore reality. We must continue to put politics aside and focus on the solutions at hand. The urgency of the climate crisis demands more innovation and ambition. We therefore reiterate our commitment to meeting our share of the Paris Agreement's emission reduction goals and announce a suite of new actions to further address climate change.

The U.S. Climate Alliance is committed to taking the following new actions:

Drive down potent Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

Reducing super pollutants – such as methane, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and black carbon – can avoid as many as 2 million premature deaths and 52 million tons of crop losses annually. Action on SLCPs also presents a tremendous economic opportunity for U.S. companies at the cutting edge of SLCP solutions.

Comment [A2]: These are global figures.
Julie/Ryan to find national figures.

Building on our commitment under the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) Challenge, we are **releasing the SLCP Challenge to Action Roadmap**, which provides a framework that has the potential reduce our collective SLCPs emissions by as much as **40-50 percent by 2030**. We also commit to **develop and implement state-specific strategies** to support this goal.

To demonstrate our commitment to lead, the states of [XYZ] announce their intention to propose regulations in 2019 to prohibit the use of high-warming HFCs, consistent with the 2015 and 2016 EPA SNAP Rules. These proposed regulations will be substantially consistent across these states and with the regulations finalized or already proposed by California. The U.S. Climate Alliance commits to accelerating the replacement of climate warming HFCs through voluntary and regulatory approaches, and Alliance states will work together in the coming year to explore actions appropriate for each of our states.

Protect our Natural and Working Lands

We also recognize that we cannot achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement by mitigating emission through power, transportation and industry alone. We must pull harmful carbon out of our atmosphere as fast as possible. **We therefore resolve to protect and sequester carbon in our lands and will integrate actions and pathways into state GHG mitigation plans by 2020.** Through these actions, we will also secure the livelihoods of farmers, ranchers and foresters, protect our food systems and water quality, and preserve our nation's natural beauty for all our residents for generations to come.

Decarbonize the Transportation Sector

Alliance states are already reducing transportation emissions at 3 times the rate of the rest of the United States, and 3 out of 4 ZEVs on American roads are in our states.¹ Building on this momentum, **we resolve to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the transportation sector**, our largest source of GHG emissions

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today. Together, the 17 states and territories that make up the US Climate Alliance are investing billions of dollars in zero emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure and vehicle deployment through state programs, mitigation funding, and utility and private investments, and **announce the deployment of an additional \$1.4bn** from the auto settlement. We challenge the rest of the states to deploy all available resources towards driving down their transportation emissions.

Increase access to affordable solar power for all

All Americans should have the right to clean, affordable power. U.S. Climate Alliance governors are united in their opposition to the misguided federal import tariffs on solar panels and cells, which are forecast to reduce solar installations and cause the loss of roughly 23,000 American jobs this year alone.ⁱⁱ **We commit to reduce the impacts of the federal solar import tariffs through the implementation of innovative solar cost reduction measures, and will work to modernize our grids.** As a first step, we announce the release of the *Grid Modernization Playbook* and the *U.S. Climate Alliance Solar Guidebook*, groundbreaking implementation resources for regulators and utilities that will reduce emissions and save money for consumers.

Comment [A3]: “offset” sounds like we are going to completely neutralize the impacts of the solar tariffs, which isn’t the case.

Save families money and avoid emissions through improved appliance energy efficiency standards

Alignment around a common set of product efficiency standards in the Alliance states could reduce GHG emissions by 5.5 million tons and save consumers across our states \$4 billion dollars by 2025. **Today the U.S. Climate Alliance announces plans to identify priority state-level appliance efficiency standards and to coordinate with Alliance states on the adoption of such standards.** As an early demonstration of leadership, Vermont passed legislation in this year, while Massachusetts, Washington, Oregon, New York and Rhode Island are either planning for or have already proposed legislation in their legislatures.

Comment [A4]: Source? What does alignment around common standards mean? All 17 state adopt substantially similar standards?

Comment [A5]: Maybe change to “Adoption of substantially similar

Comment [A6]: Since we are losing HFC text, consider cutting state reference here.

To ensure swift progress, encourage private sector participation and maximize the opportunity create jobs and grow our clean energy sectors, we announce our intent to partner with the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, an initiative of the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy to advance this effort.

ⁱ Add rhodium source

ⁱⁱ Add SEIA reference (looking up underlying analysis): [HYPERLINK "https://www.seia.org/news/presidents-decision-solar-tariffs-loss-america"]